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May 31, 1996

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NAVWARCOL

BONN

TOKYO

MANILA

BANGKOK

LONDON

CAIRO

PARIS

SEOUL

NEWDELHI

ISLAMABD

BEIJING

BRUSSELS

\_VIENNA//ALSO FOR MBFR DEL VIENNA//

SLD BRUSSELS//FOR NATO//

PRETORIA

TEL AVIV

OTTAWA

CANBERRA

ROME

YEKOHAC CAPETOWN

WELLINGTON

WHITE HOUSE

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SECTION 5

INR COMMENT:

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BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH - ANALYSIS - JANUARY 12, 1988

1. PRC/USSR: CHINESE ENCOURAGE SOVIET GESTURES

THE CHINESE HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THEIR APPROVAL OF CHANGING SOVIET DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES BY INTERVIEWING GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV. GORBACHEV SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO FLATTER BEIJING AND PRESS FOR A SUMMIT, EXAGGERATING MUTUAL INTERESTS FOR THE SAKE OF THE US AUDIENCE. BEIJING'S TONED-DOJN VERSION OF HIS REMARKS ON IMPROVEMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AND THE INEVITABILITY OF SOCIALIST REFORMS HELPS TO LEGITIMIZE THE VIEWS OF CHINESE REFORMERS IN THE MIDST OF A MAJOR POLICY REVIEW IN BEIJING.

UNCLASSFED

CHINESE INTEREST IN GORBACHEV. PUBLICATION IN AN INFLU-

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ENTIAL POLITICAL JOURNAL OF GORBACHEV'S RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS—ON INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND SOVIET REFORM—IS UNPRECEDENTED IN CHINA, THOUGH IT CAPS A TREND TOWARD POSITIVE ACADEMIC AND PRESS ASSESSMENTS OF GORBACHEV'S PROGRAM. SOME SPECIALISTS POINT TO FIRST—TIME EVIDENCE OF LOW—KEY SOVIET PRESSURE ON VIETNAM TO WITHDRAW FROM CAMBODIA. BEIJING'S MOVE THUS SEEMS INTENDED TO SIGNAL APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL DIRECTION GORBACHEV IS TAKING, HIGHLIGHT THE POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION, AND SMOKE OUT HIS REAL INTENTIONS REGARDING BEIJING'S STRATEGIC INTERESTS.

DOMESTIC ANGLE. PUBLICATION OF THE SOVIET ASSESSMENT THAT
DETENTE LIES AHEAD AND THAT RADICAL REFORM IS ESSENTIAL
AND INEVITABLE HELPS LEGITIMIZE THE VIEWS OF BEIJING'S
REFORMERS AS THEY PREPARE MAJOR REFORM PLANS. ZHAO
ZIYANG'S PROTEGE, VICE PREMIER TIAN JIYUN, WAS CITED BY
XINHUA ON JANUARY 10, WELL AFTER GORBACHEV WAS INTERVIEWED, AS STRESSING HOW MUCH BEIJING AND MOSCOW COULD
LEARN FROM EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES ON REFORMING THE CENTRAL
PLANNING SYSTEM. HIS REMARKS HINT AT UPGRADING THE LEVEL
OF CONTACTS IN ECONOMIC AND REFORM MATTERS, WHILE HOLDING
FAST ON CHINESE PREREQUISITES FOR POLITICAL NORMALIZATION.

GORBACHEV SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY. IN HIS "NEW YEAR" REMARKS, GORBACHEV EMPHASIZED HIS NEW PEACEFUL FOREIGN POLICY. HE HELD OUT VA73 049.83 9! - .757-) -::9..9-DATION OF INTERESTS IN BILATERAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS--IF THE CHINESE AGREE TO A SUMMIT, FOR WHICH HE ALLEGED "BOTH

SIDES FEEL THE OBJECTIVE NEED." SPRINKLING IN FLATTERY REGARDING CHINA'S IMPORTANT GLOBAL ROLE AND PROGRESS IN INRISS

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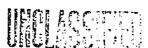
REFORM, HE TRIED TO DEPICT A GROWING COMMONALITY OF VIEWS AS SOCIALISTS. THAT IZVESTIYA AND SOVIET TELEVISION PUBLICIZED HIS REMARKS BEFORE THE CHINESE JOURNAL CAME OFF THE PRESS INDICATES GORBACHEV'S PRIMARY INTENT TO INFLUENCE THE DOMESTIC AND US AUDIENCE.

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